

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9, 25, and 28 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preparing a printing form, the method comprising:
 - coating a layer of a radiation sensitive ink on a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface layer to form an ink coating,
 - imaging the ink coating by [digital] laser means to form exposed areas and unexposed areas of the ink coating, and
 - acting on the support with aqueous covered dampening rollers to remove the unexposed areas of the ink coating thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the ink coating,

in which:

 - the [digital] laser means emits in the visible or infra-red region of the spectrum;
 - the ink comprises a radiation absorbing compound;
 - the radiation absorbing compound is a phthalocyanine pigment; and
 - the ink additionally comprises an infra-red absorbing dye.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the [digital] laser means emits in the infra-red region of the spectrum.
9. (Amended) The method of claim 8 in which the [digital] laser means emits radiation having a wavelength above 600 nm.
25. (Amended) A method for printing using a printing form, the method comprising:
 - coating a layer of a radiation sensitive ink on a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface layer to form an ink coating,
 - imaging the ink coating by [digital] laser means to form exposed areas and unexposed areas of the ink coating,
 - forming the printing form by removing the unexposed areas of the ink coating thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from

the exposed areas of the ink coating, and
printing using the printing form;

in which:

the [digital] laser means emits in the visible or [infra-rad] infra-red region of the spectrum;

the same radiation sensitive ink is used in the coating on the hydrophilic support as is used in the printing; and

a desired run length for the printing is predetermined and the thickness of the ink coated is determined according to the desired run length.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 25 in which the [digital] laser means emits in the infra-red region of the spectrum.

Please add new claims 37-65 as follows:

37. A method for preparing a printing form, the method comprising:

a) providing a radiation-sensitive composition comprising a resin and a radiation-absorbing material;

b) applying a coating of the radiation-sensitive composition to a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface;

c) imagewise exposing the coating to infrared radiation to produce exposed areas and unexposed areas of the coating; and

d) acting on the coating to remove the unexposed areas of the coating, thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the coating.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the resin comprises an acrylate resin.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the acrylate resin includes a polyether acrylate resin, an epoxy acrylate resin, an alkyl acrylate resin, or a mixture thereof.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-absorbing material is an infrared-absorbing dye.
41. The method of claim 40, wherein the infrared-absorbing dye is a squarylium dye, cyanine dye, merocyanine dye, indolizine dye, pyrylium dye, or metal dithiolene dye.
42. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-absorbing material is an infrared-absorbing pigment.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein the infrared-absorbing pigment is carbon black.
44. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition further comprises a colorant.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the colorant is a pigment.
46. The method of claim 44, wherein the colorant is carbon black.
47. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition further comprises a reactive diluent.
48. The method of claim 47, wherein the reactive diluent is styrene.
49. The method of claim 47, wherein the reactive diluent is methyl acrylate.
50. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition further comprises a photopolymerization initiator.
51. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of applying a coating includes applying the radiation-sensitive composition at a predetermined thickness.
52. The method of claim 37, wherein laser means are employed in the step of imagewise exposing.
53. The method of claim 37, wherein steps b) through d) are done on-press.

54. The method of claim 37, wherein steps c) through d) are done on-press.
55. The method of claim 37, wherein step d) is done on-press.
56. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of acting on the coating includes contacting the coating with aqueous covered dampening rollers.
57. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of acting on the coating includes contacting the coating with a fountain solution.
58. The method of claim 37, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition is a printing ink.
59. A method for printing, comprising:
 - a) providing a radiation-sensitive composition comprising a resin and a radiation-absorbing material;
 - b) applying a coating of the radiation-sensitive composition to a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface;
 - c) imagewise exposing the coating to infrared radiation to produce exposed areas and unexposed areas of the coating; and
 - d) acting on the coating to remove the unexposed areas of the coating, thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the coating;
 - e) contacting the oleophilic image with a printing ink; and
 - f) imagewise transferring the printing ink from the oleophilic image to a printing substrate.
60. The method of claim 59, wherein steps b) through f) are done on-press.
61. The method of claim 59, wherein steps c) through f) are done on-press.
62. The method of claim 59, wherein steps d) through f) are done on-press.
63. The method of claim 59, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition is a printing ink.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the radiation-sensitive composition is the same printing ink as is used in step e).
65. The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of removing the oleophilic image from the lithographic support after a print run has finished.